

were ready, he would enlist their help in working for a cause which suited them and where they could be the most effective. No friend or acquaintance of Craig Snow's was left untouched.

Mr. Snow lost his long battle with bladder cancer this year. As a community we must celebrate Craig's life and embrace his take on life; to live fully and at every level. He will be sorely missed and as a community we must honor him by committing ourselves to providing service to those in our surrounding community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LOU HANDY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lou Handy, an exceptional lady and all around great Kentuckian. Mrs. Handy recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She has enjoyed a remarkable life and her wealth of knowledge and wisdom makes her a most treasured individual.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to honor Mrs. Lou Handy and wish her and her family the very best. I ask that an article that ran in the London Sentinel-Echo on Monday April 10, 2006, appear in the RECORD.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOU HANDY

Lou Handy celebrated her 90th birthday this past weekend. "Mrs. Handy" taught me English at what was then Laurel County High School. She was my favorite high school teacher. It was in her class that I first read Hemingway, Fitzgerald and Faulkner and was encouraged to write creatively. I have loved books for as long as I can remember but it was Mrs. Handy that encouraged me and gave me the confidence to believe in my ability as a writer.

When I graduated from high school and headed off to college it was because of Mrs. Handy I felt I could succeed when I first set foot on the campus at the University of Kentucky. I earned Phi Beta Kappa there, and Mrs. Handy was part of the reason for the grades that led to the honor. I finished college in three years and Mrs. Handy was part of that as well. I finished law school early and passed the bar at the age of 23, and Mrs. Handy was a contributor to that achievement.

In the years that have followed, I have tried many cases across the state and still had the time to write and publish stories and articles across the world and I thank Mrs. Handy for giving me the confidence to believe I could do those things. I'm in seminary now and every time I sit down to write another paper I think of Mrs. Handy and the encouragement she gave me to help me along the way. It has been 31 years since Mrs. Handy was my teacher yet she is still there influencing and affecting my life and the lives of others through me.

I am not a unique example of the impact Lou Handy has had on people. From my 1975 graduating class alone there are three lawyers, two doctors, two PhD's, three engineers, one record producer in Nashville, many teachers and countless successful business people and most of us had Mrs. Handy for a teacher. When you look at the years Mrs. Handy taught you realize the profound impact she has had on this community and the state as a whole. I think Mrs. Handy is

proud of what her students have accomplished although I doubt she would ever take credit for what any of us have done but she deserves her share of the credit anyway.

Good teachers are a treasure for their communities and should be acknowledged as such. We are quick to point out the politics and disagreements of our public school system, and if we are not careful we can lose sight of the wonderful things that go on every day in our classrooms. Lives are being changed, young people are being awakened to the potential that lies before them and good teachers are making it happen.

A functioning school system is the bedrock of any community. When industry looks at a community to consider locating a factory or office there the quality of the school system is one of the first things the company wants to know about. A school system that is in turmoil or is underperforming or underfunded drives business away. No one wants to move their business to a community that fails to adequately educate the workforce. That is why we must stay involved with, and concerned about, our public schools. They are the great melting pot of London. Rich kids, poor kids, white, black, Asian and Hispanic kids are all there together. We learn to live together in public school so we can work together the rest of our lives. Public school can be trying at times as it struggles to meet the needs of the various constituencies that it serves but our school system cannot be allowed to fail. If we are unable to fashion a school that succeeds for our children then our community will never succeed.

When students learn to believe in themselves then the possibilities are limitless. Mrs. Handy knew that and I think that is why she was such a positive, affirming educator. Those of us who learned from her were blessed indeed.

So, if there is a teacher who made a difference in your life, who helped you get to where you are, tell them thanks. Support our public schools as they carry on the effort to educate and inspire Laurel County's children.

Thank you Mrs. Handy. Happy birthday! Brian C. House is an attorney in London. His column appears every other Monday in The Sentinel-Echo.

RECOGNIZING RONJA WOLF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ronja Wolf. Ronja is a student from Merzig, Germany and she came to the United States as a part of the German Parliamentary Sponsorship Program. As a committed student, Ronja chose to come to America to diversify her education and cultural experience.

Ronja left Germany on August 2, 2005 to come to Missouri. During her time in my district, Ronja has taken advantage of the many opportunities that are available to her. Sponsored by the Thurman family, Ronja quickly improved her language skills and became an accomplished student. Among her many extracurricular activities, she participated in the Academic Bowl, math competitions, Student Council, the basketball team, and is currently on the track team.

Her experiences outside of the classroom have also been exciting. With the support of her family back in Germany and her hosts, the

Thurman family, Ronja was able to experience the varied American culture. She has been taken to see the historic landmarks in St. Louis, Kansas City, and the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City. The Thurman family was gracious enough to take in Ronja's brother and sister for 2 weeks over Easter and will take Ronja to Florida with them on their family vacation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Ronja Wolf. Her time in America was an enriching experience for her and the people that she has met in her short time here. I wish her a safe journey back home and wish to see her back in Missouri once again. Ronja Wolf is an outstanding young woman with many bright years ahead of her and I ask this Congress to wish her luck in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CALABOOSE AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Calaboose African-American Museum in San Marcos, Texas, for its role in representing the many historical achievements and contributions of African-Americans to the State of Texas in the past century.

The Calaboose African-American Museum is located in a small, modest building that was the first jail in Hays County. The Calaboose was built in 1973 during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War as a jail, and its function changed over the years to a United Service Organization office for African-American men in the World War II period. It was designated as a museum by the San Marcos City Council through a petition drive started by Johnnie Armstead, one of the San Marcos community leaders, in 1997. The museum was established to focus on the local African-American history in San Marcos.

The museum contains several exhibits, including one on the Buffalo Soldiers, who helped settle the Texas Frontier after the Civil War. It also profiles well-known citizens of San Marcos such as Eddie Durham, who was one of the preeminent musicians in the jazz era. Mr. Durham was born in San Marcos in 1906, and grew up in San Marcos, and then spent the rest of his life traveling through the United States and Europe until his death in New York City in 1987. He was also the inventor of the amplified guitar. His instruments can be seen in his exhibit at the Calaboose African-American Museum in San Marcos.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the Calaboose African-American Museum for its role in recording the history of the African-American community in the City of San Marcos in the great State of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO THE DENVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Denville Fire Department,